NYA: Alive and Well Here

By Paul W. Valentine
Washington Post Staff Writer

The National Youth Alliance — a hard-right group that believes in get-tough tactics against campus radicals and preaches the superiority of white "Western culture—is alive and well in Washington.

Formed last spring as a post-election outgrowth of the Youth for Wallace movement, the NYA has grown from a one-man, mailing-list operation to a booming, solvent, tightly-knit network of chapters across the country.

Louis T. Byers, 38-year-old national organizer of NYA, cites these signs of the organization's health:

• Mailing list membership has doubled since last spring from 2,000 to 4,000. Names are collated by computer.

• Revenue is pouring in at about $300 a day, mostly in contributions, , membership fees and sales of Western culture literature.

• NYA this fall put out a first issue of its newspaper, Attack, with a circulation of 25,000.

• A monthly newsletter called Action circulates among the 4,000 mailing list members.

• About 20 NYA chapters or "units" with 5 to 20 activist members each have been established, mostly on college campuses.

• Numerous "right power" rallies have been staged in urban centers.

• Some 250,000 copies of "After 50 Years," an address by NYA mentor Revilo P. Oliver bemoaning the ruination of "Western culture" by "scabrous aliens," have been distributed.

• A 37-minute, 16-millimeter film of Oliver giving the address is used at "right power" rallies and other NYA functions. The film cost $6000 to make.

• Byers' former one-man headquarters operation here now has four full-time salaried employees.

The headquarters, a cluttered eighth floor office room at 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW, is strewn with pamphlets, envelopes, mailing lists, ZIP code maps and computer print-out sheets containing the names of NYA members.

A Morning's Mail

During a reporter's recent visit, a postman delivered NYA's morning mail, amounting to approximately 50 letters. Most contained contributions or membership fees ranging from $3 to $15.

Byers is the office chief and gives himself a monthly salary of $750. Articulate and well-read, he never attended college but achieved a two-year college equivalency in the Army's General Education Development program.

Byers was an area coordinator in western Pennsylvania and New York for the John Birch Society but was purged from the organization last year, he said, because of his "publicly racist" views.

He was a principle organizer of the George C. Wallace campaign in Pennsylvania last fall and personally selected all Wallace electors for the state, he says.

"Western Destiny"

The three persons working in Byers' office share his "same world view — we're all western destiny oriented," as he puts it.

There is Carey Winters, 22, a recent dean's list graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. She is NYA's national secretary and spends much of her energy writing NYA position papers.

Michael D. Russell, 27, as director of field activities, is on the road frequently, organizing rallies and establishing NYA direct action units.

A New York state Wallace elector in 1968, Russell was turned down when he once attempted to join the Buffalo, N.Y. police force. He says the rejection was political because of his rightist views.

The fourth and most recent member of the office is Robert Johnston, 32, an ex-Navy serviceman and former special policeman on the Buffalo force. He is NYA's instructor of "preparedness and self-defense."

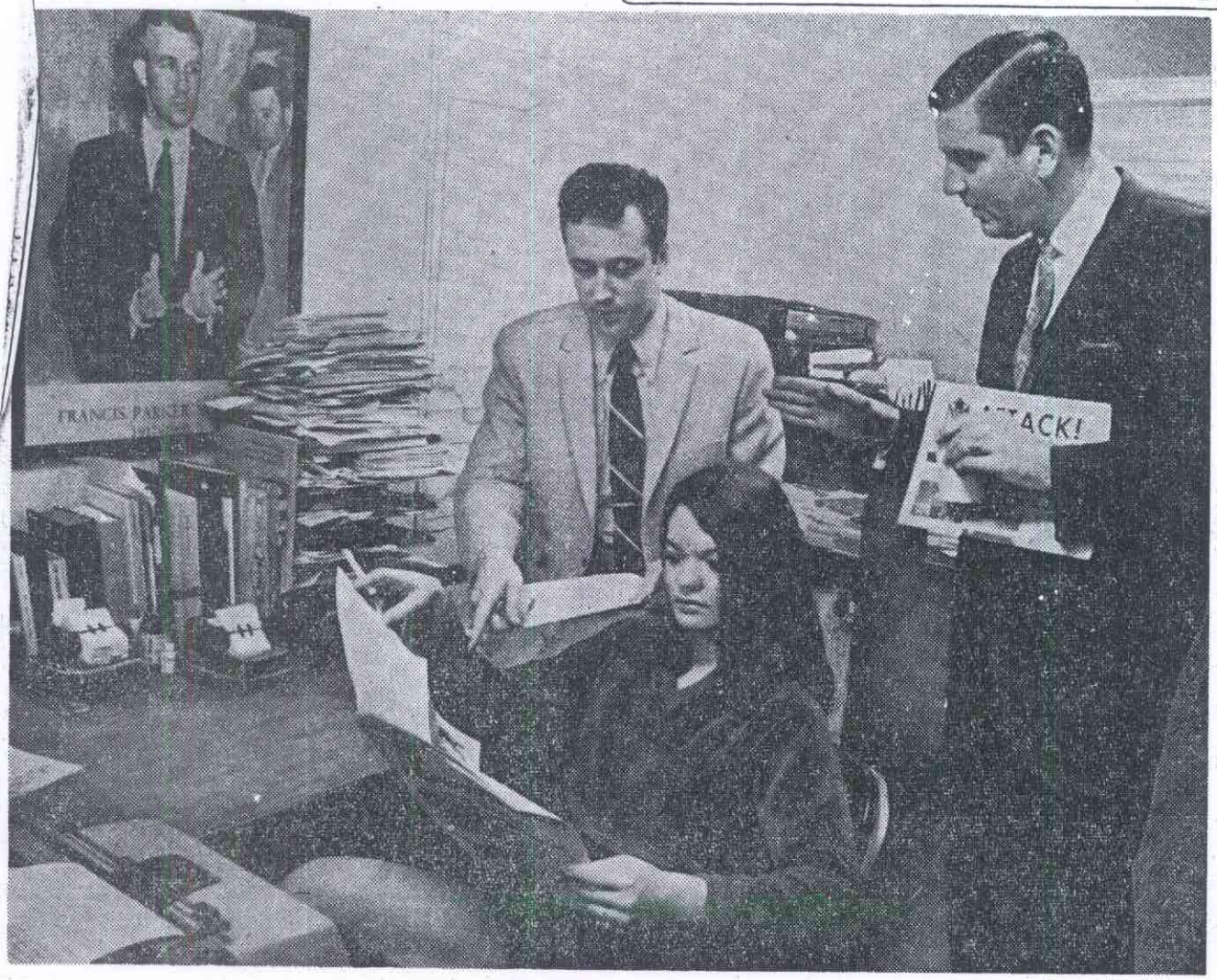
"Street Fighting"

"We were going to call him director of martial arts," said Byers, "but that sounded too tough." Instruction under Johnston includes "street fighting," judo, self-defense and "relationships with the police," Byers said.

Central to Johnston's role is the training and mobilization of cadres of rightist students to curb radical left action such as the seizure of campus buildings.

If persuasion fails, the cadres will physically eject recalcitrant students, Byers said. Preparation for such direct action is still in a formative stage, he added, and no major campus confrontations have been held.

The organizational structure of NYA is simple and authoritarian. All decisions



By Margaret Thomas—The Washington Post

NYA members Michael Russell and Louis Byers confer with Carey Winters on a story for the group's newspaper.

and policies are formulated in Byers' headquarters. Unit leaders are hand-picked by Byers and Russell. Democratic procedures are considered inefficient.

No Dissension

"We shall not tolerate dissension," says the NYA June newsletter. "NYA is a fighting movement, not a talking one or a money-raising one, and therefore it is structured like an army.

". . . Individual advancement (of members) will be on the strict basis of individual effectiveness and ability, not conspiratorial scheming, parliamentary maneuvering or adhesion to the the right clique.

". . . Another great advantage to an authoritarian structure is that the danger of infiltration and sabotage is greatly lessened."

Byers stresses that NYA wants not only to crush radical student and black power movements but also to assert positive values of "Western destiny."

The Western destiny and culture concepts stem from a book by Francis Parker Yockey entitled "Imperium" a 619-page philosophical tract extolling the virtures of northern European civilization and warning against its adulteration by Jews, Negros, Orientals and other "culture distorters."

As the basic handbook of NYA, Imperium is pushed heavily in NYA publicity. Byers claim that 11,000 copies ($2.50) each in paperback have been sold since last spring.